

Foreword

The history of St. Philomena parish is a fascinating adventure. It begins in a hostile wilderness. In fact, the first attempt at settlement, in 1792, at a site not far from the present church, was abandoned due to Indian attacks. And yet, it is a story just begun.

In 150 years of parish life, a great many people have made a great many contributions. It would be impossible to document even a tiny fraction of them. The history of the parish covers more than 15,000 man-years of active participation! Therefore, this book attempts to illustrate the trends and changes that have taken place and the important events that have shaped the life of the parish, and to use individuals, only as examples, to give life and color to those trends and events.

Similarly, I am indebted to a great many people for their assistance in this endeavor. Much material was provided by parish members and former members. I am especially grateful to Frank Paul, Frank Wolke, Leo Carlier, Allen Rapp, Rose Seibert, Ellen Craver, Mildred Lehnert, Rose Wagner, Mary Beth Sandfoss, Theo and Jo Gregory, Steve and Sue Craver, John Craver, Lee and Georgeann Ottaway, and various members of the Yeager family, to name but a few, for anecdotes on the history of the parish. F. Wallace (Wally) Armstrong, Graphics Consultant (and the best trout fisherman I have ever known) donated his services, and the benefits of a lifetime in the printing industry, to this effort.

Father Tim Schehr made the archives of The Athenaeum available, Father Joe Andres provided parish records, and Mrs. Mildred Burroughs finally grasped the significance of her son's poor marks in penmanship, so many years ago, as she typed the manuscript of this book from a collection of scribbles.

But the greatest debt, owed by all of us, is to those strong and courageous men and women struggling to survive in the wilderness of the Northwest Territory at the dawn of the 19th Century, for it is here that the story of St. Philomena's parish begins. Enjoy it.

Bob Burroughs, June 1989